



# National Death Index

## Matching Criteria

*The NDI Retrieval Program is used to search the NDI file to determine whether a particular NDI death record qualifies as a possible record match with a particular user record. To qualify as a possible match, both records must satisfy at least one of the 9 conditions or matching criteria listed below. The specified data items must agree on both records.*

1. Social Security number.
2. Month and exact year of birth, first and last name.
3. Month and exact year of birth, first name, father's surname.
4. If the subject is female: month and exact year of birth, first name, last name (user's record) and father's surname (NDI record).
5. Month and exact year of birth, first and middle initials, last name.
6. Month and  $\pm 1$  year of birth, first and middle initials, last name.
7. Month and  $\pm 1$  year of birth, first and last name.
8. Month and day of birth, first and last name.
9. Month and day of birth, first and middle initials, last name.

**NOTE:** All matches on last name and father's surname are performed on the basis of either exact spelling or NYSIIS Phonetic Codes (New York State Identification and Intelligence System).

*For more information on the National Death Index, contact:*

**NATIONAL DEATH INDEX**  
Division of Vital Statistics  
National Center for Health Statistics  
6525 Belcrest Road, Room 820  
Hyattsville, Maryland 20782-2003  
(301) 458-4444

[ndi@cdc.gov](mailto:ndi@cdc.gov)



**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
Public Health Service  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
National Center for Health Statistics